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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Thomas C. RUSSELL, Nigel J. GIBBINS, Lawrence G. MARINI, and  
Robert B. GRANT

Serial No.: 10/601,689

Filed: June 23, 2003

Examiner:

Group Art Unit: 2122

Attorney Docket: M02A441

Confirmation No.: 7976

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A SELECTIVELY  
ISOLATED EQUIPMENT AREA NETWORK FOR MACHINE ELEMENTS  
WITH DATA COMMUNICATION THEREBETWEEN AND WITH REMOTE  
SITES

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Applicants respectfully request that the following references be considered in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of each non-US patent reference is enclosed. If any of these references were uncovered by an international or foreign search as part of a counterpart application filed by the Applicants, then a copy of the search report is also enclosed.

Under rule 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a) (effective March 16, 1992), for those above-cited references that are in the English language, the Applicants submit that no specific comments are necessary for any of these.

in accordance with Rule 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned attorney certifies that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to filing this statement. In this regard, the communication from the European Patent Office is

dated December 12, 2005 and forwarded the European Search Report; a copy of this communication and, as noted above, the search report is enclosed herewith.

Therefore, consideration of the IDS by the Patent and Trademark Office, without the payment of any additional fee, is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-2865 if any fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 is deemed necessary for the accompanying references to be considered by the Patent and Trademark Office.

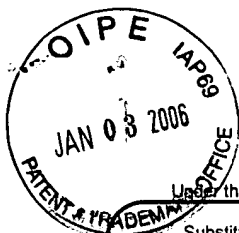
For the Examiner's convenience, the Applicants have attached a completed Form PTO/SB/08A&B.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Hey', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

David A. Hey  
Registration No. 32,351  
Attorney for Applicants  
Date: December 30, 2005

The BOC Group, Inc.  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
Phone 908-771-6385  
Fax: 908-771-6159



PTO/SB/08A (07-05)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

### Complete if Known

Application Number	10/601,689
Filing Date	June 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Thomas C. RUSSELL
Art Unit	2122
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	M02A441

Sheet

of

### U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US- 2003/0023333 A1	01-30-2003	Birkle	
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### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	AB	EP 1 256 861 A1	11-13-2002			
	AC	WO 99/63409	12-09-1999			

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/601,689
				Filing Date	June 23, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Thomas C. RUSSELL
				Art Unit	2122
Examiner Name					
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	M02A441

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	AD	Communication from the European Patent Office with European Search Report	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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### Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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on December 30, 2005  
Date

  
Signature

Kimberly S. Brown

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

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Registration Number, if applicable

908-771-1729  
Telephone Number

#### Itemized Listing of Attachments:

Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages, in duplicate), PTO/SB/08A&B with three (3) references (AB-AD, including European Search Report), and Return Receipt Postcard

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.8. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.8 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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